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## Five impeachment affidavits filed

SHELLEY WILSON  
STAFF WRITER

### Former presidential candidate claims conflict of interest

Senate president pro tempore and former presidential candidate Jaime Halscott brought five affidavits of impeachment against Student Body President Darin Patton to the Legislative, Judicial and Review Committee (LJR) on June 9 and to Senate on June 13.

The first affidavit charged the swearing in of Patton was a conflict of interest since there was still a contestment of the Spring '99 elections.

"When I went to the SG office to turn in my appeal he was already sworn in as

president during the same day of the hearing," Halscott said. "I should have had my 48 hours for the appeal."

According to Dr. Garth Jenkins, director of Judicial Services, the contestment is valid because at the time of the swearing in there was no outstanding appeal.

"There's not a wait time for swearing someone in and at that specific time there was no contestment/appeal to be heard," Jenkins said.

In the second affidavit, Halscott stated access to his office was taken away.

"I went to the Student Union Information Desk to gain access to my office in SU 214," he said. "I was told that I had been removed from the list and was subsequently shown the access list."

Fred Piccolo, one of the witnesses on this affidavit, stated his opinion of the situation.

"The student body president does set

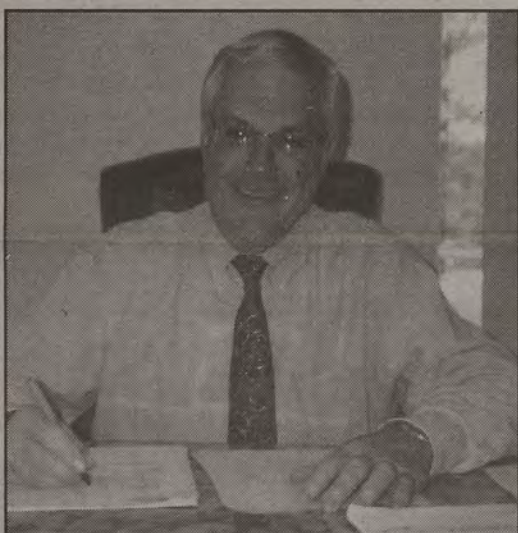
the access list, but also Jaime has an office here and should be granted access to it."

Access to the Student Government Office was changed recently by Dr. Kenneth Lawson, the associate vice president for Student Development and Enrollment Services, due to several items that turned up missing. Those items included a television set, documents taken from mailboxes, postings removed from the suite entry windows, and alleged disappearance of Election Commission materials. As a result, new hours were set from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., any meetings scheduled at

HALSCOTT, Page 3

Dr. Tom Huddleston, interim vice president for Student Development and Enrollment Services, sent a memo to President Patton clarifying the ruling.

FUTURE FILE  
PHOTO



## Judicial Council decides on stand-in senators

SHELLEY WILSON  
STAFF WRITER

The Judicial Council made a rule on June 10 about whether or not to allow seniors to sign over their Senate seat upon graduating. The Council ruled at the hearing that the student body president will appoint any vacancies after graduation, to be confirmed by Senate.

This summer was the first semester that this issue has been questioned. A bill (30-98), passed last July, created Chapter 305 in the SG Statutes that states "A student senator who is scheduled to be absent during all or part of the summer semester may designate a Senate signover during his/her period of absence." The Council found Chapter 305 to apply to graduating senators providing that the signover and confirmation by Senate takes place prior to graduation.

In either a summer signover or a temporary signover, if the person who has been designated fails to meet the Senate attendance and constituency requirements of a regular senator, the seat will be declared vacant and then filled through presidential appointment.

Dr. Tom Huddleston, interim vice president for Student Development and Enrollment Services, sent a memo to Student Body President Darin Patton on May 11 clearing up the decision. The memo addressed the subject of whether or not a graduating senior should be allowed to sign his or her seat over to their own designee without the appointment of the student body president.

Huddleston went on to say that the student body president should be making the appointments to the seats vacated by the graduating seniors and those appointments would be approved by

## UCF grad establishes credit website for students

ELAINE LEBLANC  
STAFF WRITER

A recent UCF graduate created a website geared toward informing students about establishing and maintaining good credit.

The site, StudentCredit.com, also offers online credit card applications.

Russell Gentile, who received a Finance degree in 1995, co-founded the business with a Loyola Marymount graduate. He said the numerous on-campus credit card pushers who pressure students to apply inspired them to form the business.

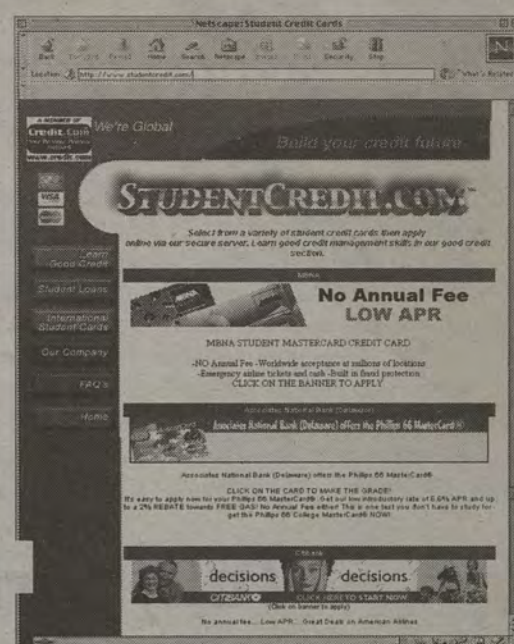
"I felt there had to be a better way," Gentile said. "How students manage their money now is very important. We want to help students use credit wisely now so they can utilize it in the future when they want to buy new cars,

houses, etc."

The site includes explanations of credit card vocabulary such as secured vs. unsecured cards and joint vs. individual credit.

Good credit is summarized by "The Three C's," as defined by Citibank to be:

- Character- How responsible you are about paying your bills
- Capacity- Your ability to pay a loan based on your money management skills, income and financial position
- Collateral- Security for the lender in case you do not pay



http://www.studentcredit.com



PHOTO BY NICOLE KING

On-campus credit card pushers inspired Russell Gentile to develop website business to help students with their credit.

back the loan

The site also advises to establish solid responsible credit with a credit card. Instead of writing checks for small purchases each month, credit card use will be recorded on credit reports. Paying the full balance before the "due date" will also ensure a good credit report.

StudentCredit.com also lists common credit card mistakes such as overspending, over-borrowing and poor organization to help students avoid repeating them.

Online applications include various credit cards such as Visa, American Express, and Citibank.

"We wanted to offer a variety so students could choose from more than one major credit card,"



# Hitt signs budget after vetoing portions

SHELLEY WILSON  
STAFF WRITER

University President Dr. John Hitt signed off on the '99-'00 Activity and Service Budget on June 11. Hitt made several changes to the budget before signing by line-item vetoes or vetoing a portion of it.

Allotments for the fall and spring Career Expos for the Engineering, Education, Business, Health & Public Affairs, Arts & Sciences, and Graduate Engineering College Councils along with the Personal Development Lab and the College Publication for the Councils were vetoed, totaling \$150,000. The lines could be approved, Hitt wrote, if detail the university deems appropriate is provided within the applicable time limits.

College Programs for Engineering, Education, Business, Health & Public Affairs, and Arts & Sciences were vetoed in its entirety. These programs were listed as programming director, Graduate Assistant Support, OPS Student Assistant Support, study area, development labs, College Appreciation Functions, Meet the Dean, and information display cases. Hitt questioned the rationale of them on the budget and also asked for detailed information about them.

Lines concerning certain clubs were vetoed in part, according to Hitt, because incorrect amounts were listed. The Agricultural/Horticultural Society was vetoed at \$12,000 with the correct amount being at \$2,000. UCF Paintball, was vetoed at \$9,000 with the correct amount at \$5,000.

Hitt made several recommendations in regards to the budget. The new Recreation

Building was a top concern on the memo.

"Senate should reallocate the \$651,958 to the Recreation Services Budget Building Fund since on October 21, 1998, the Activity and Service Fee Review Committee recommended that appropriate resources be set aside for the next three years for the new project."

Hitt also wrote that the Student Senate should verify the registration of all clubs and organizations allocated monies in this budget prior to the release of the funds allocated, and that the clubs and organizations should be officially registered by the start of the new fiscal year in order to receive allocations.

Starting on June 10, Senate has 15 school days to make new budget recommendations for expenditure of the vetoed portion of the fund according to Florida Statute 240.235 (a)(2).

After those revisions, the Statute also allows the university president to veto any line or portion and reallocate by line item the vetoed part to obligations guaranteed by activity and service fees.

Along with this fiscal budget, close to 100 requests have been made within the past few months out of last year's addendum budget.

According to Dr. Kenneth Lawson, associate vice president for Student Development and Enrollment Services, most of the requests came in late April and were approved by former Student Body President Jason Murphy. The administration held off on funding all of the requests since they totaled over \$900,000 and was not sure if all of that was available since the original

addendum budget was only requested at \$750,000.

The biggest single request on the addendum budget that has not gone through was for \$207,000 for a bigger study lounge for the Engineering Building. The initial request on a memo was dated on March 15 from Engineering Dean Martin Wanielista to David Siegel, engineering senator and College Council member.

"Students suggested to me for 3 to 4 years that they needed more study space," Wanielista said. "They asked me if I would support a bigger lounge and I said sure so I let them handle it."

Wanielista said he believes more than the College of Engineering will benefit from the bigger study space.

"You don't just find Engineering students there," he said. "There are students all over there. One day all I found there was business majors."

The funding, however, was put on hold by the General Counsel of the university on June 9 and addressed in a memo to Interim Vice President for Student Development and Enrollment Services Tom Huddleston from university attorney Mary Beth Liberto.

"It appears to me that such proposed funding is not permissible under Florida Statutes 240.235 (a)(2) and 240.295(2)(e). Pending my further research and rendition of a final legal opinion in this matter, it is my legal opinion that such funding be frozen and that no such remodeling be initiated."

Florida Statute 240.235(a)(2) says that the student activity and service fees shall be expended for lawful purposes to benefit the

student body in general. Statute 240.295(2)(e) says construction of facilities or remodeling of existing facilities to meet needs as determined by the university are authorized and available for such purposes.

According to Lawson, there are four different types of fees that universities may use.

The first is Auxiliary which is self-supporting programs such as housing and student health services. Contract & Grants is the second which is when professors apply for certain grants, then there is Activity and Service Fees which is paid by students, and Education in General which is funds from the state that pays for things on campus such as academic buildings.

The debate then is if student money can pay for an addition made to a building that was paid for by the state. Wanielista thinks it can.

"To build a new building you would need Education in General funds, but modifications come from all kinds of funds," he said.

The expansion is still being looked into. Five transfers totaling \$274,000 which were to be made into the addendum budget were also put on hold. One transfer for \$50,000 was to be from salaries from the Recreation Center was never even told to employees there.

"Nobody has told us anything. I don't think it could possibly happen because the money is not there now," said Loren Knutson, director for Recreation Services.

More than \$100,000 has been spent year-to-date on miscellaneous projects and more than \$525,000 has been approved for computer equipment.

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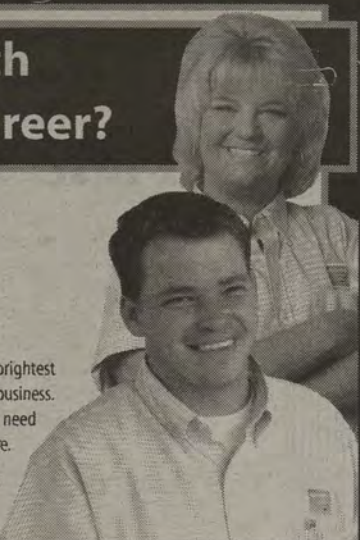
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# Halscott: Patton ordered cabinet desks emptied

FROM PAGE 1 •

different times have to be in a different location.

The third affidavit dealt with the desks of members of the Election Commission and C&O Chair Charlie Lee being emptied. Halscott wrote that Patton had all cabinet desks cleaned out. Senator Anna Berger asked Halscott at the Senate meeting why he didn't stop someone if he saw him or her emptying the desks.

"I saw the desks that were actually empty," Halscott responded. "I had to put them in an affidavit format that states what I actually saw."

The former advisor of SGA, Ossie Palla, wrote a memorandum to Patton to clarify any tampering of official documents.

"On May 14, several members of the staff and I cleaned the Cabinet/Senate area. I personally took the responsibility of clearing the Election Commission cubicle because I knew how important it was to make sure that documents were not discarded and I can assure you that no documents were discarded. Any document that I found was neatly stacked and placed in the credenza above the desk. In addition, the computer files were never touched by me or the staff on that day so any claims regarding the computer being tampered with by those who 'cleaned' the area are unfounded."

The fourth affidavit was in regards to expenditures former SG President Jason Murphy approved but Patton put on hold, according to Halscott.

In the affidavit, he wrote all presidential acts are valid until the president leaves office and once signed, all subsequent executive officers are obliged to carry out the orders regardless.

According to the SG Finance Office, most requests came in around May 18. Lawson, stated that the funds were originally looked at by the administration to see if they had enough funds to cover them to begin with. Lawson stated he did realize there was enough money to cover all requests for the addendum budget.

Patton said his reason for looking into the funds was to protect them.

"I didn't feel all of the funds were allocated the way it was requested and distributed properly for the students of this university," Patton said.

The fifth affidavit discussed Patton being sworn in as president while there was still a contestment of the Spring '99 elections.

"This contestment appeal was filed by myself no less than 30 minutes following the Council's decision to find the contestment lacking in evidence," Halscott said. "There is not yet a resolution of the contestment appeal."

That contestment appeal was upheld to give Halscott seven days for another judicial hearing, but at that hearing the Council ruled again there was not enough evidence to uphold it.

The Halscott/Lee ticket was disqualified from the Election Commission for not paying an election fine months ago, but Halscott stated he's doing this because it is his job.

"I don't want to be president/vice president of the student body," he said. "It's my job though, to make sure that people do their job here and not break any laws. If he does become impeached, Cupicha would become president and then I would become vice president."

Patton said he wants students to know that this is their government and he is doing what is best for them.

"You should voice your concerns to your senators and to the Senate. I am here for anyone who has questions over anything that I have or have not done," Patton said.

**CORRECTION**

In the June 9th issue of the Central Florida Future the story "Cash at the wink of an eye" was incorrectly attributed to Shelley Wilson. It was written by Rachel Baum.

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# Students celebrate Smoke-Out Day on campus

ALEX MELENDEZ  
STAFF WRITER

This past April 20 some UCF students chose to celebrate a holiday that not only receives no National recognition, but is also a blatant violation of this country's laws.

The herb is marijuana, and college students all over the nation took the day off to celebrate National Smoke-Out Day. The origins of the holiday aren't exactly known for sure, however, it is thought that it was started by a group of UCLA students during the mid-1970s.

Despite the ambiguity of its origins, the actual goal of the celebration itself is very clear: to smoke as much marijuana as you possibly can before the clock strikes midnight, which signals the end of National Smoke-Out Day.

At around noon on April 20, fields and meadows throughout the UCF community were dotted with tents and encampments. It was almost like a re-enactment of the 1970s flower child movement.

One participant who requested his name not be printed said, "Today is like a day where everyone can forget their lives and just chill out. I mean, we all have so many problems, I know I do. Here, I can be myself, and get as high as I wanna be, and no one will razz me for it."

Of course, National Smoke-Out Day is not all peaches and cream for all those involved — the police find themselves in a frustrating position.

Orange County Deputy John Lear called Smoke-Out Day a "real problem for the police. I mean, most of the kids who participate are way too stoned to do anything really dangerous, but that's not the point. Marijuana is illegal for a reason — it's a hallucinogen that is potentially dangerous to the person who uses it and everyone around them. It impairs judgment, motor skills, and decision-making abilities.

"Now apply that to a whole group of people smoking grass for fun," Lear said. "The potential results are disastrous. But there's very little we can do. We just can't go into the camps where the kids are smoking and bust the lot of them. And as long as they aren't causing any trouble, what are we going to do? The Constitution applies to everyone, even potheads."

Most people who participate in National Smoke-Out Day said they really don't worry about reprisal from law enforcement officials.

Another participant, who requested his name not be used, said, "The police really don't ever bother us. I've been doing this since I got to school three years ago, and I've never seen a cop bother anyone.

"And likewise, I've never seen anyone really get rowdy — I mean, we're high man, we can't really do anything but eat, laugh, and talk about things that only make sense to someone else who is high."

## Website creator assures security for customers

FROM PAGE 1

Gentile said, "Plus, most of these cards are geared towards college students trying to build credit."

All application information submitted is sent in an encrypted code.

"We don't want people to see this information," Gentile said. "The only people who see it are the user and the bank. Our company does not see any of it. The sign-up process is safe."

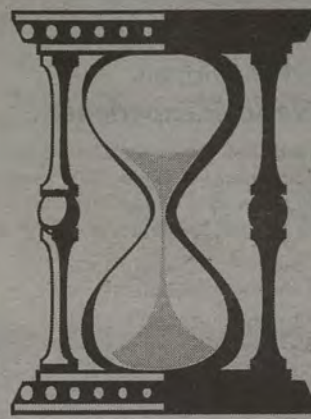
Ryan Westberry, senior, received a credit card from

StudentCredit.com. He said: "It was really easy. No one was bribing me with a free CD case to fill out an application. I looked over all the cards offered, decided on one and entered all the required information. Plus, I learned a lot about how important good credit really is."

Services offered on the site are free to students. Profits are rendered from money paid by banks to promote the cards.

StudentCredit.com is located at  
www.StudentCredit.com

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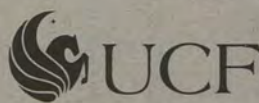
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# Summer brings out parties, cops

TAYLOR SIKES  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

## CAMPUS CRIME

Upon the end of the spring semester, students have decided it is time to party, resulting in 21 arrests in less than 30 days. According to police reports, all 21 arrests were alcohol or drug related. There were 11 arrests made for driving under the influence. Six arrests for the possession of alcohol; four of those arrested were of persons under 21 years of age. There were four arrests made for marijuana possession.

### IN OTHER POLICE REPORTS:

•On April 24, an unknown student was arrested at the Sigma Chi fraternity house on charges of tampering with or fabricating physical evidence, obstructing justice without violence, and possession of alcohol under 21 years old.

According to police reports, UCFPD Officer Joseph Ingerham encountered the student on the second floor of the fraternity house holding a can of beer. Ingerham asked the student if he was of age, and the student told him he was.

When asked for his identification, the student said that he didn't have it and that although he lived in the house, he did not have his ID there. Ingerham then asked for his name and birth date to verify. The student gave the name of Keith M. Kemp with a birth date of 04/16/76. As the officer began sending the information to his dispatch, the student threw his can of beer and began running.

The chase through the Sigma Chi house ended with Ingerham pinning the student to the floor and cuffing him. The student was then taken to Seminole County Fire and Rescue for treatment of a small burn

sustained during the chase. The officer then took the student to Orange County Jail.

•On April 25, George E. McManus was arrested and charged with resisting arrest without violence while riding his bike near the Arena. While directing traffic out of the Arena around 12:25 p.m., UCFPD Officer Scott Lowen saw two bicyclists, one male and one female, heading east in the west-bound lane against heavy traffic exiting the Arena. Another officer at the Arena motioned for the bicyclists to move into the other lane.

According to police reports, when the couple didn't respond, Lowen crossed the street and shouted at the riders to ride with traffic. McManus then put his arm into the air, and kept on riding. Lowen shouted for them to stop and come back. They did not respond.

Lowen then got into his patrol car and stopped the bicyclists. McManus got off his bike while yelling at the officer, saying he didn't have the right to harass them. Lowen asked for identification and explained the laws that stated riders had to provide it. McManus wouldn't concede and climbed back on his bike, instructing his wife to do the same. Lowen then called for another officer to assist.

After further explanation and asking for his identification, McManus still would not comply. The officers then cuffed McManus and placed him under arrest. As they were cuffing him McManus shouted, "I'm going to sue if you put these on me."

# Process under scrutiny after complaint

FROM PAGE 1

Senate. On June 7, Patton requested the Judicial Council to consider and review the establishment of appointing qualified students to vacant Student Government offices, with concurrence of the Senate.

Patton informed the Council that senators are finding friends to serve and signing their seats over to them, corrupting the process. Patton gave the example of former signover candidate Robert Smith, who was denied membership with no reasons given.

Smith said he has no political ties to any party. He also said that allowing only Senate to pick and vote on other senators is a contradiction of who they are representing.

"The students vote for senators during outside elections," Smith said. "To allow only an inside group to vote on inside members does not allow outside student involvement."

Along with signovers, another issue that was brought before the Council at the hearing was the fairness of the questions asked to Senate appointees. The Council recommended that all Senate candidates be questioned equally on their merit and potential contribution to the UCF Student Government Association.

The recommendation was due in part to a

recent meeting where Senate members asked Smith if his appointment was an orchestration by the executive branch; however, Kevin Koenig and Fred Piccolo were questioned that same day and asked what kind of eating utensil and traffic stop they would be if they had the choice.

Piccolo explained at the hearing the difference in questions.

"Senate knew me and knew my goals, whereas they didn't know Smith," Piccolo said. "They knew where I was coming from, whereas they weren't sure about him."

Smith, however, believes certain Senate members assumed he had a hidden agenda when he came before them.

"My first reaction to my question was that [David] Siegel pictured me as a puppet," Smith said. "I explained to him that I sought after the seat myself. I was totally surprised the questions were not on the same level."

Senator Koenig said Senate rarely ever asks appointees the same questions.

"People are in Senate for different reasons," Koenig said. "A few of which are to get involved, facilitate funding for their club, and/or they enjoy politics. Senators will ask appointees questions to determine how that appointee will affect their reason for being in Senate."

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## A tribute to rock and roll

RAMIRO VAZQUEZ  
STAFF WRITER

Just imagine. Kiss, Ozzy, Led Zeppelin and the once decent Metallica on one stage for \$8. If it sounds too good to be true, it is. In reality, it is the Monsters of Mock tour, a package in which tribute bands share the stage for one night. In essence, I would be seeing three of my all-time favorite bands on one stage for a fraction of the price it would cost to see them. It is not the real thing, but it's close enough.

The first band was Ozzy's tribute band, Crazy Train. The singer tried to look like Ozzy, even though he resembled a less fatter Chris Farley with long hair. Maybe he faked his own death since he felt his true calling in life was to imitate Ozzy in small clubs. Not even Ozzy on his worst day could sound as bad as this guy. He gets an "E" for effort, though. In all honesty, a tribute band is supposed to be a third-rate imitation of the real deal. As David Bowie would say, "the band was all together," musically the songs did justice to the original songs. The guy who played Ozzy took his job pretty seriously and he even mooned the audience at the end of the show like Ozzy would, without a doubt the most unnecessary sight of the night.

Next up was Zoso, the Zeppelin tribute band. I love Zeppelin and since it is highly unlikely to see the real deal, this band will have to do. The guitarist looked like Yngwie Malmsteen, the bass player looked like Dave JR from Megadeth with longer hair and the singer looked like big bird dressed as Robert Plant. The singer tried to do a good job and sometimes it worked better than others. The real star was the band itself. The guitarist was good, but he was no Jimmy Page. The

rhythm was great, especially the drummer who was every bit as good as the late great John Bonham. They focused too much on the softer songs instead of the heavy stuff like "Dazed and Confused" or "The Lemon Song", but to their credit they did not focus too much on the tried-and-true Zeppelin and took a couple of well-intentioned risks.

A Metallica tribute is a rarity within itself. Although the band is still active musically, they are hardly a shadow of their former selves. Battery, the Metallica tribute band, represented the hope of disillusioned former fans like myself to forget for a while the present and remember the songs we used to love. The band started right with "Creeping Death" which is perhaps my favorite Metallica song, but problems quickly started to surface. First of all, the drummer was every bit as incompetent as Lars Ulrich. Like Lars, he had a fancy kit which he never put to good use. The sissy used the double bass probably twice dur-

ing the whole set, taking away greatly from the band's intensity. The guitarists were average, although their song selection was poor. Battery chose to focus on standard material that the band plays to death until this day. "Enter Sandman", "One," "Sanitarium," and "Sad but True" (the Hulk Hogan song). It would have

been better if they played the stuff that Metallica has not

felt like playing in years like "Leper Messiah," "Disposable Heroes," or "Shortest Straw." Now when they played "Whisky in the Jar", I felt I had enough. I could have lived without them playing any of the new aterna rock material. Like the real Metallica, Battery did whatever they felt like doing.

Next up was KISS ARMY!!!! I am a big fan of Kiss, but I have had the misfortune of never seeing the band live, so this was the closest I got to fulfill that dream. Of all the tribute bands, these guys were by far the best. Kiss' larger-than-life image lends itself easier to imperson-

ation. All the members looked the part. Ace had the spacey "I'm drunk on stage" look down. He, like the real Ace, looked like he was playing on another planet.

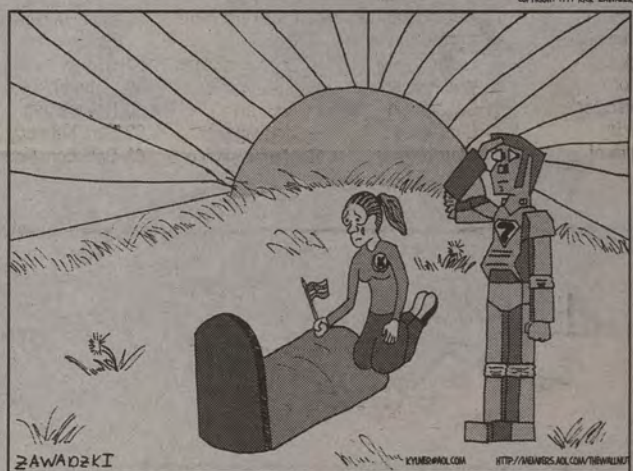
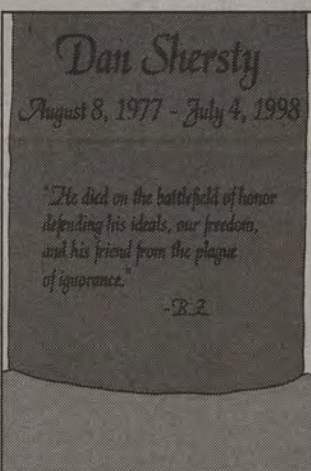
Paul Stanley looked like he practiced really hard playing with his hair like the Starchild himself. His stage raps were straight out of the Alive albums and Gene Simmons did the whole flame throwing, blood-spilling thing. Now whoever played Peter Criss played a lot better than the Cat Man himself. I know it is not nice to pick on the Catman but he never sounded as great as the drummer in Kiss Army. I was delighted to hear "She," "God of Thunder," and "C'mon and Love Me", but there were a couple I would have liked to have heard but with so many Kiss songs it's hard to play every request. They finished the set with "Rock and Roll All Nite" and all was good.

Apart from the show, what made Kiss Army better than the other tribute bands is that it came closer to capture the spirit of the original band and brought out that inner Kiss that was inside all the people in attendance.

### CONCERT REVIEW

#### The Walnuts

THE WALNUTS BY RICK ZAWADZKI



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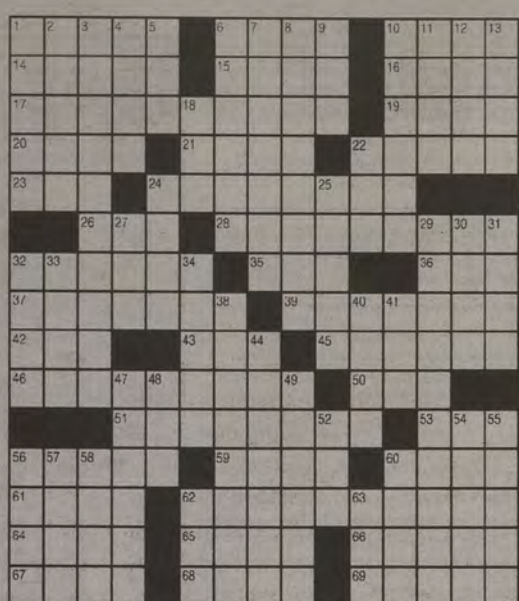


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# Crossword

ACROSS  
1 Support loop  
6 Word with rock or rain  
10 Use a rotary phone  
14 "Rebel without a Cause" co-star  
15 Over with  
16 Andes resident  
17 "Agnes Grey" novelist  
19 Yodeler's gimmick  
20 Peruse  
21 Exhort  
22 Cinders  
23 Letters that explode  
24 Cheap ocean passage  
26 Pitcher's stat  
28 Hearst and Scott  
32 Possessing  
35 Was first  
36 Team support  
37 Planters  
39 Poster paint  
42 Spanish article  
43 Feedbag bite  
45 Having a ceiling  
46 Violent attack  
50 Hive resident  
51 Fred and Adele  
53 Male sheep  
56 Horn sounds  
59 Flexible armor  
60 Composer Bartok  
61 Perry's penner  
62 Grave markers  
64 Statuesque  
65 Sandusky's lake  
66 Full-length  
67 Rub out  
68 Lions' lairs  
69 Sugar source



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6/23/99

DOWN  
1 Brainy  
2 Common shower gift  
3 Inbred quality  
4 Lack  
5 Sailor  
6 Worshiper  
7 Solidify  
8 Matrix of  
9 Actress Ruby  
10 Type of locomotive  
11 Move slowly  
12 Heart follower?  
13 Cambodia's neighbor  
18 Furrow  
22 Gone by  
24 Rational  
25 Venomous snake  
27 Eliminate  
29 Choice  
30 Rabbit's kin  
31 Roe source  
32 Christiania, today  
33 Break a habit  
34 Thin mortar  
38 Roosevelt's home, Hill  
40 Wild revelers  
41 Edgar Allan  
44 B-complex vitamin  
47 Since last time  
48 Blockhead  
49 Groups of clans  
52 Golfer Emie  
54 Alaskan language  
55 Marina skyline  
56 Vietnamese holidays  
57 By mouth  
58 podrida  
60 Rover's treat  
62 Sen. Kennedy  
63 Bathroom fixture

Check your  
Crossword  
on Page 3!

# Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird

## Lead Stories

•In April, the Unique Recoveries collection agency in Bombay, India, hired six eunuchs to go to the homes or offices of obstinate debtors to embarrass them into paying up, by dancing around and threatening to lift their saris to expose their "genitallessness." Unique's director said he expects his business to expand and that he will hire 100 more eunuchs. Many Bombay eunuchs earn money by crashing weddings and hanging around until they are paid to leave.

•The devastation of Kosovo this year by Serbian forces also disrupted another part of some Kosovars' lives: their extensive international crime network, which, according to a May report by the San Francisco Chronicle, "dominated" the narcotics business in Europe. The Kosovar network has now been supplanted by more vicious Albanian crime organizations, sometimes in conjunction with Sicilian Mafia families just across the Adriatic Sea, supported by a corrupt Albanian parliament. In March, the Albanian crime "boss of bosses" was arrested in Milan, Italy, en route as an Albanian diplomat to an International Crime Tribunal meeting in France.

•In April, the Great Floridian Marker Program's deadline was extended again, to September, because it is far short of its millennial goal to officially recognize the 2,000 all-time greatest Floridians. Though the program has been in operation for more than a year, municipalities have nominated so few people (170) that program personnel may finally be realizing that there simply have never been 2,000 great Floridians.

## Leading Economic Indicators

In January, officials in Chelyabinsk, Russia, imposed a 5-ruble (about 20 cents) monthly tax on domestic dogs, based on their use of electricity and water. And in May, the owner of the Letostrui antiques shop in Sofia, Bulgaria, told reporters he hoped for a quick end to the bombing in neighboring Yugoslavia so that his missile debris (from NATO misfires that hit Bulgaria) would retain its high value and not be diluted by further debris from more NATO misfires. And a May Knight-Ridder News Service dispatch reported that Chile has covered for its lagging copper business with such dynamic exports as disposable diapers made from swamp moss and after-shave lotion made from snail slime.

## Cultural Diversity

•More than 2,300 people were reported kidnapped in Colombia in 1998 in what are called "fishing expeditions," in which almost random groups of people are abducted until the captors sort out who is valuable and who isn't, according to a June Chicago Tribune story. Kidnapping is such a fact of life in Colombia that the format of one Bogota radio station is almost exclusively messages for kidnap victims from their relatives.

•Artists wielded chainsaws in March in Samchok, South Korea, for the traditional anglers' Male Root Carving Competition. Celebratory penises up to 9 feet long are fashioned from pine logs along a waterfront to commemorate the time, 400 years ago, when a sailor died on a fishing trip and left a forlorn virgin on the shore. The phalluses are an attempt to appease her spirit and are dumped in the water after the event. Proclamation was led this year by the current mayor of Samchok, whose actual name is Kim Il Dong.

•In India, 600,000 "untouchables" continue their miserable existence despite pledges by the government for the last 50 years to improve their lives, according to an April report in the London Observer. Members of the country's lowest caste empty dry latrines for a living, and anyone of a higher caste who even accidentally touches a so-called "scavenger" must undergo a ritual purification. A Delhi organization has liberated 40,000 scavengers over the past decade, mostly upgrading them to janitors.

•Among the more controversial of the recent decrees of the Afghanistan fundamentalist Taliban

government was to term a traditional Gurbuz tribe pastime as un-Islamic "gambling." In the game, two men tap eggs together, and the one whose egg breaks is the loser. In January, when Taliban soldiers tried to break up a game in the city of Khost, the tribesmen resisted, and in a standoff, five soldiers and seven tribesmen were killed.

## Compelling Explanations

•In April, William Whitfield, 34, won about \$185,000 (U.S.) from a Calgary, Alberta, judge for injuries he suffered when motorist David Calhoun smashed into his brand-new truck in 1990. Among the crash's consequences, according to medical testimony, was Whitfield's acquired desire, still unsubsidized to this day despite electroshock therapy, to kill Calhoun in retaliation. According to the judge, Calhoun failed to testify at the trial out of fear of Whitfield, who has told his lawyer that he intends to kill Calhoun and then himself.

•Ten U.S. representatives this decade gave absolute pledges not to serve more than eight years in office, and six are keeping their promises. Of the other four (including Republicans Scott McInnis of Colorado and George Nethercutt of Washington and Democrat Marty Meehan of Massachusetts), the best promise-voiding explanation was by Republican Tillie Fowler, elected from Jacksonville, Fla., in 1992 under the slogan "Eight (years) Is Enough." Fowler said in December 1998 that she might run in the year 2000 anyway, because "my problem was, I was too honest (when I made the pledge)."

•Roy Hopkins, 32, speaking to a Toronto Star reporter in March about having recently stepped forward to admit to a 1995 murder for which another man had wrongly been serving a life sentence: "I may be a criminal, and I may be a thief, and I may be a robber, but I ain't a low-life."

•Charles Ng, who was convicted in February in Orange County, Calif., of 11 torture-murders in a spree during 1984-85, claimed at his sentencing hearing in April that it was really his late buddy Leonard Lake who masterminded the killings and that he, Ng, had what a psychiatrist called a dependent personality disorder that made him too docile and compliant. Ng was so "docile" that he fled to Canada and skillfully fought extradition for six years after the killings and since 1991 has used numerous delay tactics, including firing several of his lawyers and suing three of them, to avoid going to trial.

## Update

In 1992 News of the Weird reported that a Cornell University researcher had developed an artificial dog (heated using cows' blood) to breed the 12,000 fleas a day he required for shipping to pharmaceutical companies to test flea and tick remedies. (The dog replaced 25 real dogs, which were probably quite relieved.) A June 1999 New York Times report finds that the now-semi-retired researcher, Dr. Jay Georgi, mainly sells the artificial dogs (whose efficiency is now as great as that of 104 real dogs), but does keep a small population of fleas on hand for small orders and emergencies. Dr. Georgi claims to retain his fascination with fleas: "I'm very fond of them."

## The Only Way Out

In February, the mayor of Carsonville, Mich. (population 583), hanged himself in his tool shed three days before a contentious recall election, provoked by objections to his bill-paying lapses and violations of open-meetings laws. And in March in Tokyo, a 58-year-old executive, upset at Bridgestone Tire Co.'s large-scale (and for Japan, unusual) downsizing, which included a request that he accept early retirement, committed ritual hara-kiri with a 14-inch fish-slicing knife in a company conference room.

(Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 8306, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33738, or [Weird@compuserve.com](mailto:Weird@compuserve.com).)

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## FROM the SPORTS desk

### Brisson, Batia receive All-Region honors



Brisson



Batia

UCF first baseman Dustin Brisson (Wellington/Wellington HS) has been selected to the 1999 American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) All-Atlantic Region first team while designated hitter Mark Batia (Jonesboro, Ga./North Florida CC) has been named to the second team.

Brisson, a first team all-Trans America Athletic Conference selection, hit a team-leading .388 with a school-record 17 home runs and 76 RBIs last season. He also led the Golden Knights with a .748 slugging percentage and ranked second with a career-high 19 doubles. Brisson was selected in the 24th round by the New York Mets earlier this month.

Batia, who also played left and center field for UCF last season, hit .378 with seven doubles, three triples and 18 RBI over 54 games. He led the team with a .558 on base percentage and ranked third with 12 stolen bases.

### 6 golfers earn All-TAAC merit

Women's golfers Line Berg and Monica Gundersrud earned first-team All-TAAC honors and Olivia Hartley and Tatiana Londono were selected to the second team.

UCF won the TAAC championship with Berg, a junior, placing second overall. Gundersrud, a freshman, placed third. Hartley had a stellar freshman year capped by her qualification to the Women's U.S. Open.

Adam Hayes and Kristian Svalheim, both seniors, earned second-team All-TAAC honors on the men's team.

The all-conference teams feature the respective tournament medalists with remaining selections based on final GolfStat rankings for the 1998-99 season.

Campbell's Kylie Pratt was TAAC medalist for the women and Troy State's Josh Broadway won the men's event.

### UCF down to 2 for women's soccer job

UCF interviewed its two finalists for the opening of head coach of the women's soccer team. The remaining candidates are Amanda Cromwell and Neil Roberts.

Cromwell is a 1992 graduate of the University of Virginia. She was head coach of University of Maryland at Baltimore County from 1996-98 but took last year off to train for the U.S. National Team which she has been part of since 1991. In 1996, she was an Olympic Team alternate. She is a resident of Lake Mary.

Roberts has been head coach of East Carolina University since 1995 and led the team to a 10-7-1 finish last year. He was a graduate assistant at North Carolina in 1987 when the Tar Heels won the national championship after going 23-0-1.

He graduated from Delaware and earned his master's from UNC. He interviews at UCF on Tuesday.

-TONY MEJIA

## Striegler sets goal of TAAC dominance

FROM PAGE 12

Stephen F. Austin has attained. The Ladyjacks have gone to the NCAA Tournament 12 straight years.

"I want to win the conference every year and get to the NCAA's. That's our immediate goal," Striegler said. "It may take two or three years to get to that level, but I think everything is in place for us to build UCF into that kind of power."

If her past is any indication, Striegler will succeed. Prior to her position at Stephen F. Austin, Striegler was the first assistant at Northwestern State University (La.) for three seasons. While there the Lady Demons went 65-16 and

earned a WNIT bid in 1992. Striegler was responsible for coordinating Northwestern's defensive schemes and the Lady Demons responded by holding opponents to a 39-percent field goal percentage.

She began her career at the University of Arkansas as a graduate assistant and earned a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology at the University of Central Arkansas in 1990 and finished her master's in kinesiology the following year from Arkansas.

While at Arkansas, Striegler was part of a team that advanced to the NCAA Tournament "Sweet 16" and won the Southwestern Conference regular season and

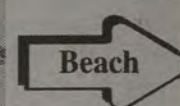
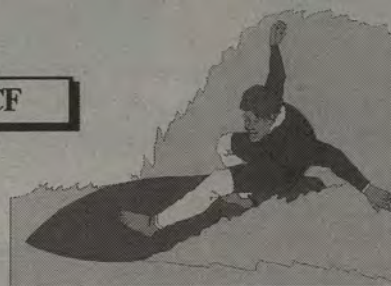
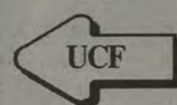
tournament championship.

Striegler already has called some of Florida's recruiting gurus and plans on building relationships with coaches around the state. With only one assistant, her task will be even more difficult and her schedule more hectic.

"I've been fortunate to be able to build good relationships with the AAU and high school coaches and really get to know the players," Striegler said. "You really have to sell them on yourself, your beliefs and your program."

"There was a list of potential recruits so I kind of cross-matched them with some of my lists and will start from there."

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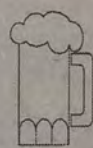
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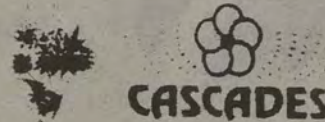
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# Bergman seeks immediate help

FROM PAGE 12

Columbus, Ohio and played at Potomac State CC. He was previously drafted by the Baltimore Orioles in 1998. Junior Daniel Stillman, a 6-foot-4 right-hander, throws in the high 80s and played at Pasco-Hernando CC.

Freshman Von David Stertzback was a First-Team All-State selection from West Minister High School in Plantation, Florida and played in the state high school All-Star game. He joins early signee Greg Hubbard, also a pitcher, The Knights got three players who play middle infield positions to help fill a void left by the graduation of second baseman Tim Boeth. Junior Raul Cruz played second base at Pasco-Hernando CC and hit .360 with 14 home runs last year. Junior Mike Aranda, also from Pasco-Hernando, and junior Mike Myers, a transfer from Oklahoma State, both played short-stop and will battle for playing time. Aranda hit over .400 in his two years at PHSS, and Myers hit .350 with six RBIs in only 13 games at OSU.

"We don't recruit the junior college players to be back ups," Bergman said. "We expect immediate help from them, and they'll add to the quality of what we already have."

Junior Greg Good was a first baseman and left-handed pitcher at Collins County CC in Texas. He hit .385 with 15 home runs this year. Freshman Ellis Debrow, a highly touted football recruit from Woodham HS in Pensacola, has said he plans to play baseball also. He was drafted in the 22nd round by the Boston Red Sox earlier this month.

Freshman outfielder Brian Steenson from Bishop Moore HS hit over .400 with five home runs and played in the Central Florida All-Star game. Another football recruit, Brandon Greenlee, who plans to play baseball along with Debrow.

Finally, early signee Rich Wallace was the lone catcher signed by the Knights. He played at Bishop Moore HS and led the city in doubles this year. However, UCF did lose two of its early signees. Outfielder David Lemon and Matt Allegra, both taken in the draft, have decided to either play junior college baseball or sign professionally.

UCF finished this past season 38-21 and missed the NCAA playoffs for the second straight year after earning a bid in four of the five years previously. The coaches look for many of these players to step in to play in hopes of returning to the NCAA Tournament.

# Schneider arrives with lofty credentials

FROM PAGE 12

the line of scrimmage.

Schools in the Independent ranks include Notre Dame, Louisiana Tech, Southwestern Louisiana, and the U.S. Naval Academy.

Meanwhile, the Golden Knights added another candidate in the race to become Daunte Culpepper's successor as quarterback Ryan Schneider (Plantation/Plantation HS) signed a grant-in-aid.

Schneider, 6-2, 205, originally planned to join the squad as a walk-on. After redshirt freshman quarterback Brad Banks was lost due to academics, there was a need to sign another quarterback.

Schneider was the Class

6A Player-of-the-Year last season and was offered a full scholarship to the University of Houston. His 470 yards completed in a single game broke the state record and he finished the season with 3,764 yards. He had 38 touchdowns and four interceptions and finished his career with a 37-4 record. Schneider encountered only one regular-season loss and lost three times in the state playoffs. He will play in the Florida North-South All-Star game in Jacksonville on June 26.

Returning players will report to camp Aug. 7, with practice starting Aug. 10. UCF opens the season in the Florida Citrus Bowl against Purdue on Sept. 4.

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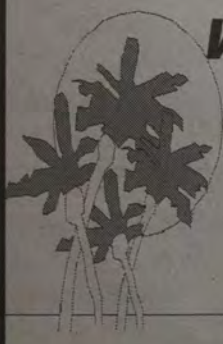
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## SPORTS

## UCF hauls in 13

## Golden Knights bring in big recruiting class

TRAVIS BELL  
STAFF WRITER

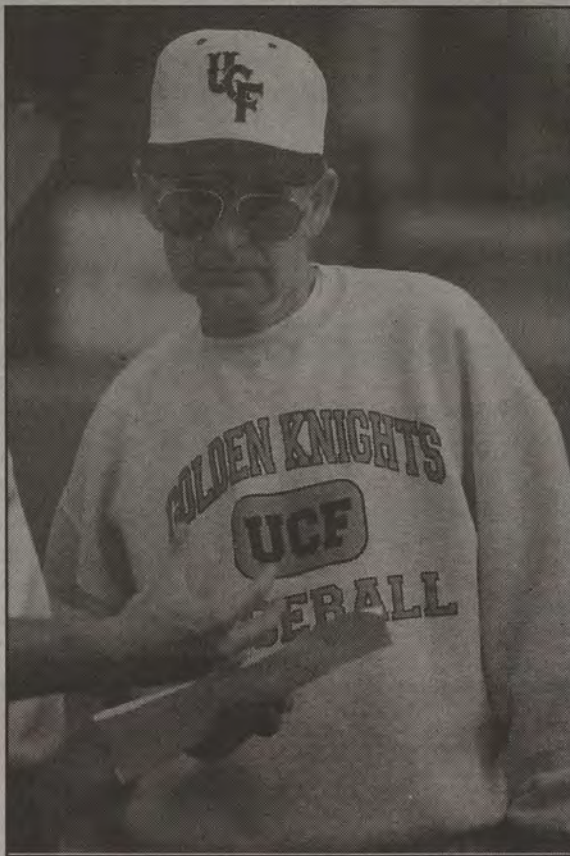
The UCF baseball program signed nine players in the late signing period, bringing its total number of signees to 13, including two football players who plan to play baseball and two early signees announced in January. "I'm really pleased," Coach Jay Bergman said. "Last year we got caught with so many juniors getting drafted, so we didn't have a chance to recruit some players to fill voids that were left (by the players who got drafted)." Of the 13 players signed, there are five pitchers, five infielders, two outfielders,

and a catcher. Seven of the players are juniors, and the remaining six are freshmen.

Junior right-hander Jessie Marlo signed with UCF after redshirting this past year at Louisiana State, so he still has two years of eligibility remaining. He played his first two seasons at Seminole Community College where he led the nation in strikeouts in 1998. Two fellow junior college pitchers join him. "He has a good arm, but he wasn't ready to pitch at LSU's level," Bergman said. "He was fortunate to redshirt."

Junior right-hander Scott Ridenour is from

BERGMAN, Page 11



FUTURE FILE PHOTO

Jay Bergman will welcome a talented recruiting class to a large number of returnees expected to challenge for next year's TAAC title.

## Striegler realizes dream by landing UCF's top job

TONY MEJIA  
SPORTS EDITOR

Gail Striegler will jump into her first Division I head coaching opportunity with great enthusiasm. You can count on that. She's living her childhood dream.

"I've been waiting for this moment since I was in junior high school," Striegler said. "I used to sit around dreaming about it. I've always wanted to be a head coach."

UCF Athletics Director Steve Sloan announced the recommendation of Striegler for hire as UCF's 10th women's basketball coach. She replaces Lynn Bria, who took a similar position at Ohio University.

Striegler began making recruiting calls on behalf of UCF from Texas on Monday. She is not expected to sign an official contract until later this month.

"The whole program, from top to bottom, is terrific," Striegler said. "Coach Bria did a terrific job with them and left me a great opportunity. It's not every day someone gets to take over a team that went to the NCAA Tournament last year."

"With so many returning starters, we have a chance to be really special next year as well."

Striegler hopes to build on a banner year for the Golden Knights, who finished with a 20-10 record and won the TAAC regular season and tournament titles.

After taking care of "fun things such as turning off the electricity and packing up everything" Striegler's first order of business is to get to this summer's high school basketball camps and look for new talent.

Although this is her first head coaching job, Striegler is no stranger to recruiting. The native of Fayetteville, Ark., has spent the last five years bringing talented players to SFA. During her tenure, the Ladyjacks advanced to the NCAA Tournament five times, including a trip to the "Sweet 16" in 1996.

Striegler's 1998 recruiting class was ranked No. 13 by the Women's Basketball Journal and the Blue Chip Report. She has signed and coached numerous All-Americans while at SFA and one of her many responsibilities included academic monitoring of players. The Ladyjacks have maintained an 80-percent student-athlete graduation rate since Striegler has been at SFA.

Despite Stephen F. Austin's reputation as a women's basketball power, Striegler is certain it will be easier bringing top players to Orlando than it was to Nacogdoches, Texas.

"It took me a while to learn how to spell Nacogdoches. If I can't sell Orlando, I'm in trouble," Striegler said. "I think there are 101 good selling points about the university. It has terrific programs and people and the academics is top notch. Nobody knows Stephen F. Austin except for the women's basketball program, so it's been difficult."

Striegler hopes to bring UCF to the same level



Striegler

STRIEGLER, Page 10

## 3 earn preseason honors; Schneider comes on board

SPECIAL TO THE FUTURE

Three Golden Knights were honored as Football News released its preseason All-Independent team for the coming year.

Junior receiver Kenny Clark, junior center Chris Lorenti and senior defensive tackle Justen Moore were tabbed as the best players at their positions among those in the Independent ranks.

Clark, from Ocala, is expected to fill some of the gap left by the graduation of starters Siaha Burley and Mark Nonsant from a UCF team that finished 9-2 last year. Clark had a very productive sophomore season, catching 40 passes for 481 yards and six touchdowns and was named UCF's most improved offensive player.

Lorenti, from South Daytona, has been a starter on the offensive line at UCF since his first game as a freshman. He graded out 80 percent or better in nine of 11 games and 85 percent or better four times last year. Despite the high number of pass plays for UCF he surrendered only two and a half sacks all season.

Moore, from Ocala, earned All-Independents honors from the Football News in addition to being named UCF's Outstanding Defensive Lineman last year. He led the team in sacks with eight and had a total of 47 tackles, including a team-high 12 behind



FUTURE FILE PHOTO

Senior Kenny Clark is expected to be the favored receiver in UCF's passing attack this season.

SCHNEIDER, Page 11

Inside

### Brisson and Batia honored

Two of the Killer B's were named to the Atlantic All-Region Team.

— PAGE 10



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